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HALL PROSECUTION BALKED IN SUPPORTING MRS. GIBSON

Continued from First Page.

"Miss J. Gibson," so that it becomes quite difficult to know how to address this woman who raises pigs and sells mules.

Mrs. Gibson's tall, thin son has a chum by the name of John Booley and John knows Willie as Willie Easton and his mother as Mrs. Easton. Easton, who admits he is her son, was asked what he thought of the story she has told and he said:

"She tells an amazing story. She has a brilliant mind."

Had Husband, Jobe Gibson.

Mrs. Gibson's story of her early life in Kentucky was verified in part last night in a dispatch to The New York Herald from Lexington, Ky. This message said her husband, Jobe Gibson, fell off a bridge there and was drowned about six years ago.

"I have heard of these terrible attacks on me. I know they say I left Gibson, Larue county, Ky., many years ago, after my husband was drowned. I know they say I moved to Bloomington, Ill. I know they say I was a figure in the Piper murder case some years ago."

"I know every one wonders why I said I was the widow of a clergyman named Gibson, who died seventeen years ago, and why I have not revealed the full story of my past. You tell me the officials, Willcox, Mott and the rest, are investigating the story of my life."

"Well, I don't care. I know I am here in New Brunswick and I witnessed the murder of Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills. What difference does it make whether I have had a 'past' or not. My 'past' is my own business. I am a hard working woman. I till my farm; my son lives with me. I have told what I know. Why should Mr. Mott or any one else delve into my 'past'? Do you know why?"

No available maps or records show any Gibson in Larue county, which is across five counties and seventy-five miles from Fayette county, of which Lexington is the seat and in which Mrs. Gibson's family was traced to a community formerly named Gibson.

Officials Believe Her.

Totten and Mason both believe the woman's story. Totten feels that the woman has had a hard life, but that she is telling the truth. Mason is proceeding on the strength of her story. Totten thinks well of her explanation that she did not tell of her second visit to the scene of the crime that night because she was waiting until her story was attacked on the stand, intending to "come back" at the lawyer for the defense.

The investigators are trying to strengthen this story, and it is to that end that the wagon she said she was following was sought. There was a report that it had been found, but Mason said this was not true, although "progress had been made." The one automobile which the investigators suspected has been eliminated.

Meteorological records corroborate Mrs. Gibson, it being ascertained from Recorder Noyes at the Trenton Observatory that on the evening of September 14, the night of the murder, the climatic conditions on the night of the murder, it was quite possible for Mrs. Gibson to see quite clearly what she says she did if she was in the position she says she was.

The moon rose at 12:25 that night and for about afterward it gave no appreciable light. This would bring the time when the moon shone distinctly to after 1 o'clock, the time which Mrs. Gibson gives as the hour when she returned to the scene and "in the light of the then risen moon saw the same woman in the gray coat bending sobbing over the bodies under the tree."

It was possible for Mrs. Gibson to have seen figures under the tree, but whether or not in the earlier dimmer light and at the distance which she gave she could identify any one is another matter and one over which counsel might have some rare arguments if the case ever goes to trial.

Timothy N. Pfeiffer, counsel for the Hall, said of Mrs. Gibson's challenge to meet Mrs. Hall:

"We are perfectly willing to do whatever the prosecution requests."

Regarding events in the Hall home in the early part of the evening of September 14, the night of the murder, it was explained that Frances Voorhees, 10, Mrs. Hall's niece, had arrived to visit the Halls on the preceding Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Hall takes a great interest in children and she was with the child until she went to bed. Mrs. Hall and Frances were inside the house when Mr. Hall left after receiving the telephone message from Mrs. Mills. They went out to the porch and returned inside a little later to play with a picture puzzle until 9:30 or 9, when Frances went upstairs to get ready for bed. She called to Mrs. Hall when ready and

Mrs. Hall went to her and heard her prayers.

Three investigators, among them Mr. Mason, spent an hour to-day trying to see whether there was any connection between two cartridges found yesterday, six and a half weeks after the crime, and the murder. The cartridges were special 32 caliber, not intended for a Colt's automatic, such as the murderer used. They were found in a place that has been trampled over by hundreds since the crime. Whether they dropped from the pocket of some man strolling in the neighborhood at night, or were deliberately planted to be so found, it was established that they were not used in the slayer's gun.

It seems a pity that a story so full of unusual characters has to be subordinated to a graveridge, but Siggery Smith, also known as Lutz Smith, whose real name is Seymour Smith, has been subordinated.

Smith lives in the Fraley house, across De Russys lane from the Phillips farm, and is a gravedigger in the Elmwood Cemetery, far away across town. He is another of those unrepentant characters that have figured in this case. He has a huge nose and bad teeth and a temper he is not loath to display. When an attempt was made to interview him to-day he said with a snarl:

"I want money, that's what I want; money. Understand that?"

Then he said, with an oath or two or three, that the State troopers had told him not to talk.

According to the story that has been in circulation for several weeks, Smith said to a man he met on a trolley car on Friday, September 15, the day after the murder:

"There was a murder out my way last night. Who was it?"

The bodies were not discovered by Raymond Schneider and Pearl Bahner until Saturday, so if Smith had really said that it would indicate he had known about the killing long before any one else except the woman who says she saw it.

Near Enough to Hear Shots.

Mason and the State troopers questioned Smith to-day and he told them he had never made the remark. They know of no way of proving that he did, and so they have had to let this drop, at least for a while. But it is hardly believable that no one in the Fraley house heard the shots or the screams, so close to the house to the crabapple tree that was until the souvenir hunters got it.

The explanation of the Fraleys and Smith is that there is a piano and a phonograph in the house and that a young man in the family plays the phonograph all the time, whether one is playing the piano or not. Smith said it was probable that on the night of the murder both instruments were in use at once and no one could hear a thing. Mrs. Fraley told interviewers weeks ago that every one in the house was asleep early and that if they heard the shots they would have paid no attention, so frequent are the shootings in the foreign settlements near by. Smith said:

"Sleep! Who the— could sleep with that— phonograph going all the time?"

Smith's chief acquaintances are two other gravediggers—Charles Denton of 300 Livingston avenue, which is as acrid and awe inspiring a lonely shack as can be found in or near New Brunswick, and Myron Pollard, a tall, gaunt individual with a faculty for forgetting, who would make an ideal gravedigger in a play. Both these men were reported as having heard Smith make this remark on the Friday, but both denied that he had said a word to them about the murder until it was two weeks old. Yet it occurred almost in Smith's front yard.

The finding of a gold cuff link on the Phillips farm a week after the murder became known yesterday. The link was engraved with the three letters "W. L. S." and on the ball end the link was inscribed "1902." This link has been turned in to the authorities and they have refused to say anything about it.

The link was discovered by F. R. Kilbourn, of 213 Suydam street, who with a friend, was inspecting the scene. As he walked up the front steps of the old Phillips farmhouse his eye was attracted by the glint of gold, and he stooped and picked up the link, which from its appearance, had been there for some time. He said nothing at the time he took the link to a local jeweler and asked him to make out the initials of the scroll monogram. Then he told one or two of his friends and word got to the local authorities, who asked him to turn over the link.

The public possibly has received a mistaken impression through the incorrect publication of the ages of Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Hall has been pictured as a woman markedly older than her husband, some setting her age as high as 66. As a matter of fact she is only 47, only six years older than her husband, who was 41.

A close friend of the Hall family to-

night gave a word picture of the intimate life of the household of the rector and his wife, describing in detail the arrangement of the rooms within the house in Nichol avenue where Mrs. Hall remains virtually a prisoner because of her reluctance to leave the grounds or be seen by any one except her very closest friends and legal advisers. This person said:

"The rector's study forms the only proper background for a portrayal of his life. It was there that Mr. Hall spent most of his waking hours, in close companionship with his wife. In that study, surrounded by his Bibles and his books, he wrote most of his sermons, answered his many communications, and did his reading. During the day Mrs. Hall was with him a great deal, usually in that study."

"She too had her work to do. She managed the entire household with her own hands. Often they would read together, the rector sitting in his high-backed old fashioned black leather chair under a reading lamp near a front window. Mrs. Hall near at hand with her sewing machine."

Mr. Hall was an omnivorous reader, devouring all kinds of books, from his ecclesiastical reference works to modern plays and treatises. The range of his readings and his interests was remarkable.

Had a Thousand Books.

"Seven bookcases are in his room, containing approximately a thousand volumes. There are many sets, such as the sets of Shakespeare, 'Yardsworth, Barrie and Wells.' The 'Outline of Science.' There are hundreds of books on music, such as the life of Beethoven and the 'Art of Music.' There are many volumes of poetry by the lesser as well as the better known poets. Plays range from Plato to Brecht."

"And there are works of another character, such as 'Alice in Wonderland,' the story of Noah's Ark. Works on religion, of course, predominate, and they fill shelf after shelf, side by side with such reference works as the International Critical Commentary and several encyclopedias."

"The rector's study is on the second floor, with windows facing Nichol avenue and Redmon street. It is a large rectangular room of more than the ordinary size, but it seems small because of the profusion of bookcases, tables, chairs and memorabilia. It is a very cheerful room, having sunlight almost all day long. It has light figured wall paper and an old fashioned coal grate, and at least for a while, the Hall's parents occupied the house. The house, it must be remembered, is a gift to Mrs. Hall from her mother."

"The walls are hung with a number of pictures in no particular order. Most of them are of a religious nature, such as 'Christ at the Age of Twelve,' a copy of the sketch by Haig of the Burgess Cathedral, an old print of the 'Pilgrimage to Canterbury' and 'Litchfield Cathedral.' There are quite a number of knickknacks and curios, among them a cross carved out of stone. There are several pictures of Mrs. Hall, but none of them recent. Several of them show her in her wedding gown. Photographs of other members of the family are on the mantel over the fireplace and on the bookcases."

"The most conspicuous object in the entire room, facing the door diagonally, is the rector's desk. It is a modern little flat topped desk with mahogany finish. It is evidently the newest piece of furniture in the room, in sharp contrast to an old genuine mahogany desk, which stands against the opposite wall, and one which might have been used by one of Mrs. Hall's ancestors, and an old teakwood table covered with magazines and religious publications."

"On the desk was a small revolving stand with three Bibles, several hymnals, a Webster's dictionary and a book of Crabbe's synonyms. A pile of papers lay at one side and the drawers

of the desk were filled with a miscellany of business records. In the top left hand drawer was a small date book which gave evidence of Mr. Hall's love of music, as many of the notes were reminders of concerts."

"It is in this room that Mrs. Hall consults with her attorney, Mr. Pfeiffer, every day, and here she conducts the affairs of her household. Just two days ago she got out many of her childhood toys and permitted Frances to strew them all over the floor. In fact, the room to-day is just like it was when Mr. Hall was alive, except for a little wicker basket chocked full of letters of sympathy sent to Mrs. Hall, many of them from childhood friends from whom Mrs. Hall had not heard a word for many years."

There is no crabapple tree now where the bodies were found.

When the bodies were discovered the Phillips house was a model of neatness inside, with the furniture and rugs all in place and the floors and furniture spotless and free from dust. It was, as has been said, as if the family had just gone out for an hour or two. Now the doors have been battered half down, the porch pillars are tottering, the windows are broken and inside everything is dirty, broken and awry. There is hardly a whole stick of furniture left and everything portable has been carted off. Gone are brass candlesticks and lamps, rugs, foot stools, small chairs and tables and all over the place are torn bits of paper and pages of magazines.

They have even chipped the ivory of the piano keys.

The interior of the house is a wreck and, fully five hundred dollars' worth of damage has been done, while the stuff removed, some of it real old mahogany, must have been worth fully another thousand. Yet Sam Levine, the owner, has been content to display a sign, to which no one has paid any attention:

"No trespassing."

A second appeal from Charlotte Mills, daughter of the dead woman, to Gov. Edwards was made public to-night, with an appeal which the girl is supposed to have written to the citizens

of New Jersey pleading for action on the case.

The message sent by Charlotte to Gov. Edwards read:

"I appeal to you, the chief executive of a great State, to act personally in my demand for the arrest of the guilty persons who killed my mother. There has been enough of talk about the crime, but not enough of action. My mother's blood cries out from her grave."

"My mother's blood cries out from her grave against this inactivity and her daughter joins in the heart drawn cry, why has nothing been done toward arresting the person or persons who murdered my mother?"

MRS. GIBSON'S FAMILY TRACED IN KENTUCKY

Husband Fell Off Bridge and Was Drowned.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. LEXINGTON, Ky., Oct. 30.—Mrs. Jane Gibson, the witness in the Hall-Mills murder at New Brunswick, is believed to be the former Jane Underwood, daughter of Frank Anse Underwood, of the Leasdale section of this county. Leasdale is now the name of the post office which formerly was Gibson.

If the Mrs. Gibson of New Brunswick is from Gibson, Ky., she is the widow of Jobe Gibson, and they moved from this county to Bloomington, Ill., at least fifteen years ago.

Mrs. Gibson never returned here, but her husband, Jobe Gibson, came back about six years ago, and while walking across a bridge near here fell off and was drowned.

Rousseau Underwood, Mrs. Gibson's brother, left here several years ago and went to Illinois. A sister and two brothers of Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. William Smith and Tom and Aaron Underwood, live near Leasdale. Members of the family are said to have not heard from Mrs. Gibson for several years.

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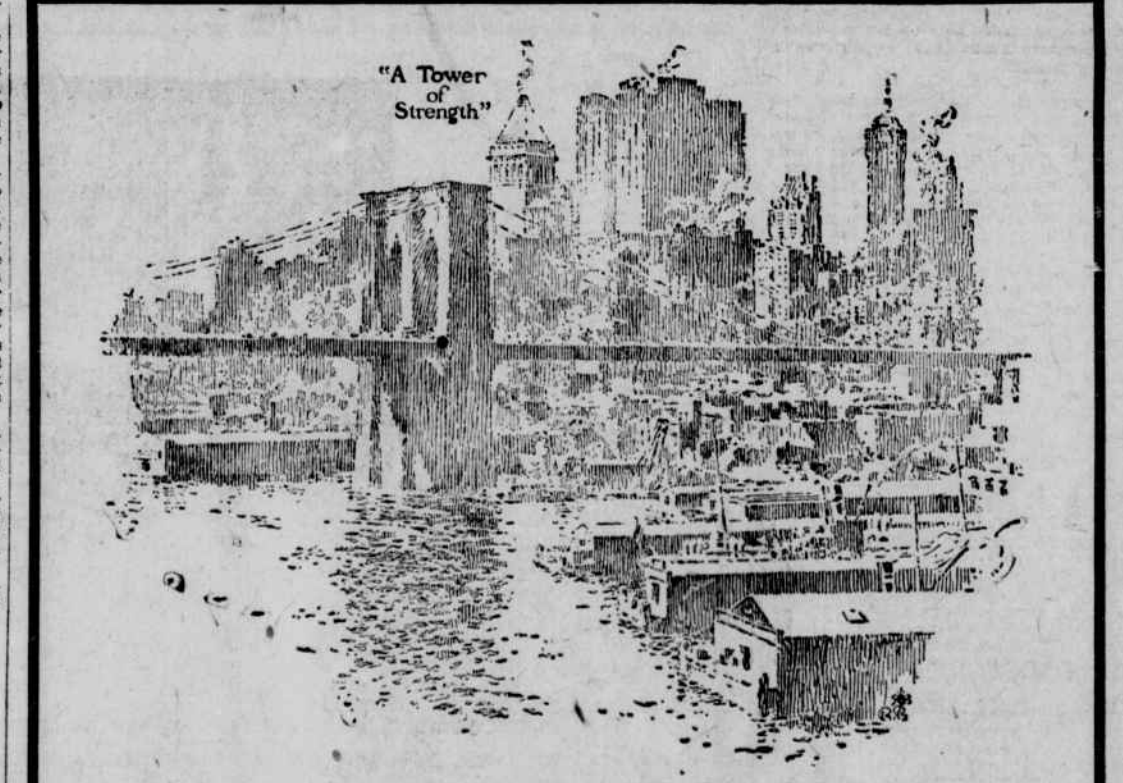
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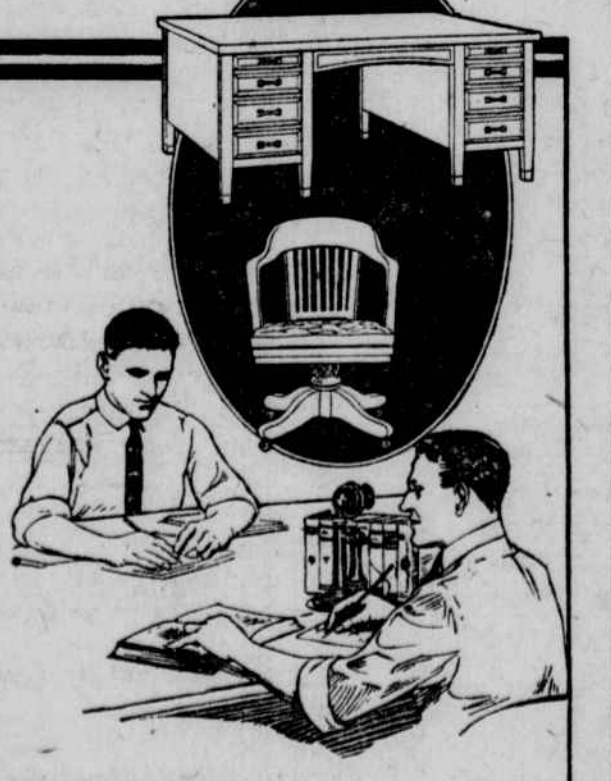
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